

## Maxima and Minima (Completing the Square)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

When a quadratic relation is in **vertex form**  $y = a(x - h)^2 + k$ , we can sketch and analyze it easily. From this you should know its vertex, axis of symmetry, max or min value, and its appearance.

HOWEVER when a quadratic relation is written in **Standard Form**

$y = ax^2 + bx + c$ , we do not know as much about it so by “**Completing the Square**”, we can put it into the form  $y = a(x - h)^2 + k$ , to better sketch and analyze it.

**EX:** Write  $y = x^2 + 8x + 3$  in the form  $y = a(x - h)^2 + k$  by “**completing the square**”. Graph it and analyze the parabola.

Steps:

1. Group the first two terms.
2. Take half of the b and square it. Add this number to the group (now a perfect square trinomial) and subtract it at the end.
3. Factor the perfect square trinomial and simplify the end.

**EX:** “Completing the Square” when the coefficient of  $x^2$  is not 1.  
Write  $y = -2x^2 + 4x + 5$  in “vertex form”.

**Steps:**

1. Common factor the “a” out of the first two terms only.
2. Take half of the new x term coefficient and square it. Add and subtract this number inside the bracket.
3. Remove the last number from the bracket by distributive property.
4. Factor the perfect square trinomial and simplify the ending.

### Application Problems

#### **A. Maximizing Revenue**

**EX:** A theater company has 300 season ticket holders. The board decides they want to increase the price of season tickets from the current price of \$400. A survey shows for every \$20 price increase, they will lose 10 subscribers. What “new price” will maximize their revenue?

\*Help them make more \$ without losing too many customers.

To make the relation use **REVENUE = # of subscribers X season ticket cost**

**B. Maximizing Area**

**EX:** What is the maximum area that can be enclosed by 400m of fencing.  
Find the dimensions of the enclosed rectangle.